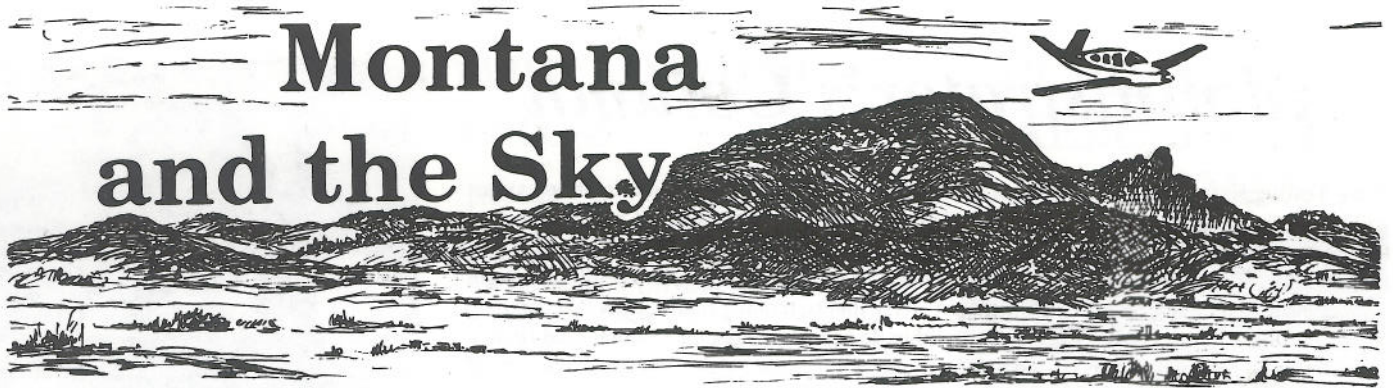


Montana and the Sky



Vol. 41, No. 3

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

March 1990

OVER 600 ATTEND 1990 CONFERENCE

An exciting program and great weather brought over 600 aviation enthusiasts to Helena for the 1990 Montana Aviation Conference held February 28 - March 3 at the Colonial Inn.

Over 40 speakers conducted an extremely interesting mix of seminars and concurrent sessions. They were headlined by James Kolstad, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, Bill Shea, FAA Aviation Education Program Manager, and Aloha Airlines Captain Mimi Tompkins.

Forty-five aviation firms filled the exhibit area with interesting displays of the latest in aviation products and services. These firms also donated thousands of dollars worth of door prizes which were given away during the Conference. Several engineering firms sponsored coffee breaks held in the display

area.

An aircraft display in the parking lot of the Colonial elicited interest and comments from the Helena community, especially since they were flown in and landed on an adjacent street, and they served as good publicity for the event. Many local residents brought children to see the aircraft and to go through the exhibits inside.

The Montana Aeronautics Division and the Helena Host Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the 1990 Montana Aviation Conference an outstanding success.

The 1991 Conference will be held February 27 - March 2 at the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell. The Kalispell Committee is already busily planning for that event. We'll plan to see you there.

AERO BOARD MEETS DURING CONFERENCE

The Montana Aeronautics Board held a meeting in Helena in conjunction with the 1990 Montana Aviation Conference.

The Board discussed the possibility of overseeing the production of a feature story on the Montana Aviation Conference to be written for publication in national aviation magazines. They took formal action to proceed with this project.

Preliminary Engineering Grants of \$1,000 each were approved for proposed airport construction projects at Stevensville, Red Lodge, and Hardin. These grants are funded through the Aeronautics Division's earmarked revenue account.

The Board heard an update on bids received by the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide service to the Essential Air Service communities in eastern Montana. Community comments will be forwarded to the DOT before the final choice is made of the airline to serve the EAS communities.

It was noted that the Division, in cooperation with the Board committee, is working on refinements to an airport safety questionnaire which subsequently will be distributed to airports in the state.

The Board held a meeting in conjunction with the Aviation Organizations of Montana to discuss proposed legislation for the upcoming session which would address the Aeronautics Division's funding problems.

Mike Strand, Kalispell, expressed his appreciation to the Board for their cooperation and support during his tenure as chairman.

Date of the next Aeronautics Board meeting is yet to be announced.



Every nook and cranny in the Colonial was filled with exhibits, concurrent sessions, and aviation displays during the 1990 Montana Aviation Conference.

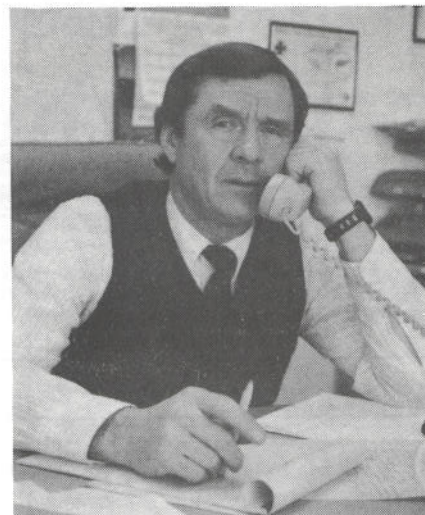
Administrator's Column

Drug Testing Extension. The FAA has announced that certain commercial flight operations will be granted a 360 day extension, until April 10, 1991, to implement their FAA approved drug testing program. **THE PART 135 OPERATORS STILL MUST MEET THE APRIL 15, 1990, DEADLINE.** Those operating commercially under FAR Part 135-1C, such as balloons, flight instructors, agricultural applicators, photography, ferry flights, training flights, parachute jumping flights (within 25 miles), helicopter flights (within 25 miles), helicopter external load flights, sight-seeing flights, and election campaigning flights will be granted the 360 day extension. If you have any question on this, don't take a chance. Call our office or, better yet, call the FAA Flight Standards District Office in Helena at 449-5270.

Tax Increases Proposed for Aviation Users. I attended the spring meeting of the National Association of State Aviation Officials in Washington, D.C., in mid-March during which time FAA Administrator Admiral James Busey addressed our group. Admiral Busey unveiled the administration's proposed legislative version of the reauthorization of the existing Airport Improvement Program, which will expire 1992. The proposal includes increasing GA fuel taxes 4 to 5 cents per gallon, increasing airline passenger ticket tax from 8 to 10 percent, and adding a new option tax which will repeal the existing head tax prohibition. The head tax, or Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) as it's now being called, will be left to the discretion of the airports and will be \$3 per boarding passenger. There will be a formula whereby a percent of the amount collected will be passed on to the FAA and placed in the Trust Fund. It was interesting to later hear Congressman Bob Carr (Michigan) address the National Air Traffic Controller Association (NATCA). Rep. Carr stated that the administration's proposal is "dead on arrival" when it reaches the Hill. We also heard from key Congressional staffers and other national associations, and it appears that there are only a couple of national aviation associations in D.C. supporting this proposal.

FAA Enforcement Practices Soften Toward Fairness. In September 1989 issue of Montana and the Sky, I wrote about the FAA's review of their rigid enforcement program which led to mistrust and friction. After many meetings with pilots and aviation organizations throughout the country, FAA Administrator Admiral James Busey has announced that the FAA will be placing more emphasis on education and counseling rather than the mandatory suspensions and revocations for violations by allowing their inspectors the flexibility to use their discretion in applying reasonable and fair remedies in addressing violations. Busey said that, although the FAA is responsible to enforce the rules, the new policy will be more flexible and will strive to promote compliance through better education and communications. Busey feels, and I agree, that their new policy will strengthen the FAA/GA partnership for safety.

Aviation Conference a Huge Success. It was gratifying to witness the results of all the hard work by many dedicated people during our 6th annual Aviation Conference, which was held in Helena March 1 - 3. The Conference was attended by over 600 people, and all of the programs came off smoothly and were well attended. Inasmuch as there will be considerable coverage in this and in future newsletters, I will not go further into detail. However, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express my appreciation to my Aeronautics staff and to the co-sponsor committee headed by Ron Mercer, Helena Airport manager. I also wish to thank all of the program presenters, exhibitors, Gov. Stephens for declaring Aviation Week, and especially our guest speakers - NTSB Chairman Jim Kolstad, Prof. Bill Shea, Dr. Jerry Cockrell, and Captain Mimi Tompkins - who all left their busy jobs and traveled so far to be with us.



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AERONAUTICS BOARD/AOM HOLD JOINT FORUM

The Montana Aeronautics Board and representatives of the Aviation Organizations of Montana held a joint open forum on Thursday afternoon, March 1, during the Montana Aviation Conference. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the aviation community a legislative proposal which had been drafted by a legislative subcommittee of the Aeronautics Board and subsequently discussed and approved by the board of AOM.

Copies of the proposal were distributed along with an outline of the Aeronautics Division's budget and expenditures. Russ Pankey, Aeronautics Board member who served as chairman of the legislative subcommittee, outlined and explained the

proposal.

Considerable discussion followed, most of which centered on the funding problems of the Aeronautics Division and the proposed solution to those problems.

Although no final decision was made during the meeting, the two groups received valuable input. This information was used to prepare a revised proposal which was then presented to a joint meeting of the Aeronautics Board and AOM held on Saturday, March 3. In separate votes, both groups endorsed the revised proposal. This revised proposal will now be discussed with state administration and legislative leaders in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.

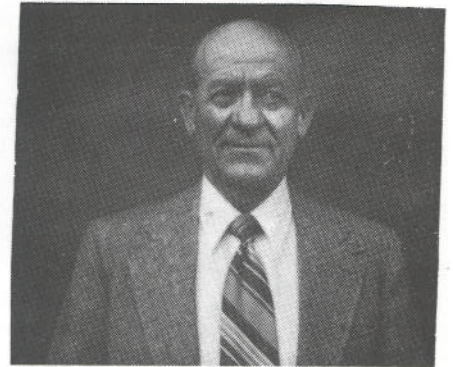


Members of the Aeronautics Board at the Board/AOM Joint Forum are (from left): Russ Pankey, Howard Gipe, Joel Fenger, Al Cochrane, Pete Pederson, George Teslovich, Mike Strand, and Sig Ugrin.



AOM representatives at the Forum are (from left): Steve Vold, MATA; Marilyn Lewis, MFF; Monte Eliason, MAMA; Linda Marshall, 99s; Paula DeKeyrel, MAAA; Dave Gates, MPA; and Ralph Klawitter, CAP.

UGRIN NAMED AERO BOARD CHAIRMAN



Governor Stephens has announced the appointment of C.R. "Sig" Ugrin of Miles City as chairman of the Montana Aeronautics Board.

A member of the Board since October 1981, Ugrin represents the fixed base operators of the state.

Owner of Miles City Aero Service and manager of Frank Wiley Field, Ugrin has been in business in Miles City for 40 years. He has been involved in the aviation industry for 50 years, coming to Miles City from Billings.

Ugrin replaces Myron Strand of Kalispell as chairman of the Board.

CALENDAR

May 4 - 13 - Air/Space America Trade Exposition and Air Show, Brown Field Airport, San Diego, California.

May 19 - 20 - Benchmark Work Session. (If the weather is bad that weekend, May 26 - 27 will be alternate dates.)

June 11 - 29 - Aerospace Teacher Workshops.

June 16 - 17 - Southwest Montana Spring Fly-In. Sponsored by Butte Hangar, MPA. (June 23 - 24 will be bad weather dates.)

July 20 - 22 - Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 27 - Aug. 2 - EAA Fly-In Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Aug. 1 - 9 - Alberta Aviation Council's Air Tour '90 through Montana.

Aug. 3 - 5 - MAAA Fly-In, Three Forks.

Aug. 23 - 26 - Billings Air Show. Featuring the Snow Birds and the Confederate Air Force.

Oct. 5 - 7 - MFF Convention, Kalispell.

1990 AVIATION CONFERENCE - HELENA

(Note: Following issues of Montana and the Sky will contain more photos of the Conference including those taken during the Awards Luncheon of awards recipients.)



Governor Stan Stephens addresses the kick-off luncheon.



A gift from the Conference is presented to Kolstad by Ron Mercer, chairman of the Helena Committee.



Helena Mayor Russ Ritter also received one of Capt. Arnott's "fast flags."



James Kolstad, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, was the featured speaker for the kick-off luncheon.



Capt. William Arnott, navigator of the 747 Around the World Friendship Flight, presents Gov. Stephens with a Montana flag he took around the world with him.



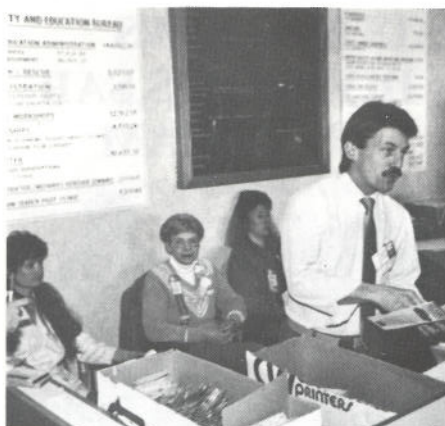
Mike Ferguson presents James Kolstad with a set of Montana Wings.



John Dove (left), Missoula, visits with Chuck Brooke, acting director of the Montana Department of Commerce.



The Aeronautics Board met on Thursday.



Life wasn't always this easy at the registration desk - but look who's working and who's not! (From left: Brenda Spivey, Ruth Anderson, Cathy Simkins, and Phil Porrini)



An FAA "Availability Session" was conducted by Fred Isaac, Regional Administrator of the Northwest Mountain Region.



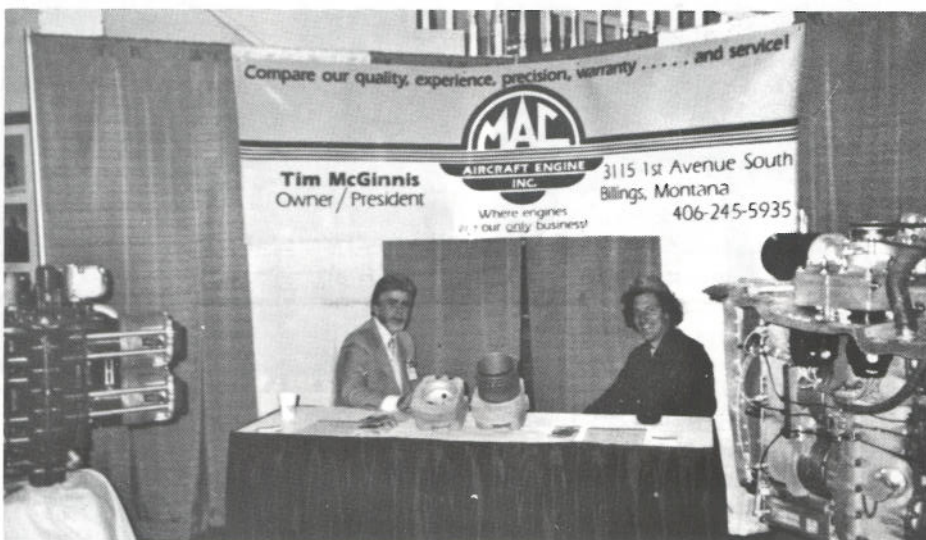
Visiting with FAA's Fred Isaac (left) are Russ Pankey, Missoula airport manager, and Loren Gibbons, Missoula FSS manager.



Fergus Fay was a member of the Voyager crew who worked on that project from the beginning. He attended the Conference and talked about the project.



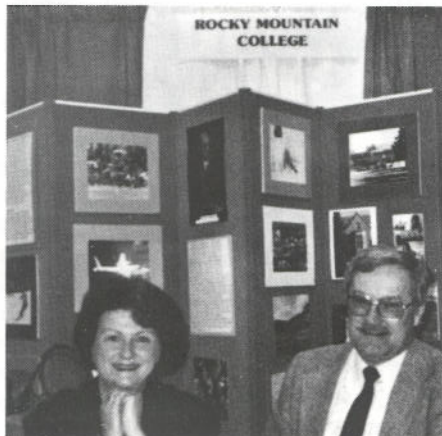
Responsible for many of the flying scenes in the movie, "Always," Denny Lynch discussed his experiences during concurrent sessions.



One of 45 exhibitors, M.A.C. Aircraft Engines was tucked under the stairs in the lobby of the Colonial.



Harry Fallis of Transport Canada again filled three concurrent sessions with his excellent safety program.



Another Montana exhibitor was Rocky Mountain College from Billings.



Aviation insurance was the topic of presentations by Joseph Benero, president of Global Aviation Insurance Services from Richardson, Texas.



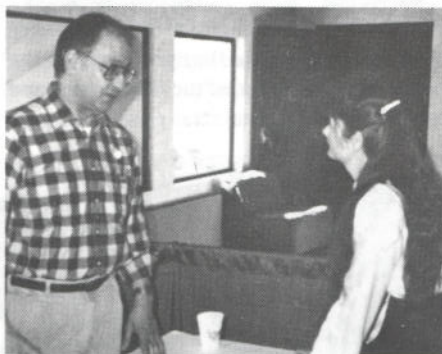
A motivational session, including a "rags to riches" story, was conducted by Dan Snyder, Helena, during breakfast on Friday.



There's something for everyone at a Montana Aviation Conference! This little person belongs to Ed and Gail Obie, Chinook.



Enjoying lunch are Scott Stanley (left), Great Falls, and Tuck Barrett, Cascade.



Western Flyer publisher, Dave Scclair, visits with Brenda Spivey, Helena, at his booth. Dave also conducted a concurrent session.

CANADA'S CARES REVIEWS DIVISION'S SAR PROGRAM



Capt. Luc Prince (left), with the Canadian 440th SAR Squadron, and Capt. A.D. "Bram" Tilroe, Commander of Alberta's Civil Air Rescue and Emergency Services (CARES), visited Helena in January where Fred Hasskamp briefed them on the Montana Aeronautics Division's volunteer air search system. In addition, Hasskamp demonstrated ELT homing equipment so they could make comparisons in deciding on new equipment purchases for CARES.

ALBERTA AVIATION COUNCIL PLANS MONTANA TOUR



A planning group for the Alberta Aviation Council's Air Tour '90 through Montana traveled to Helena in January to discuss plans for the tour. The group plans to travel with about 45 aircraft and perhaps 120 people on a tour of Montana that will begin August 1. Pictured above are (from left): Dave Gates, president of MPA; Gordon Cameron, CARES director; Mike Ferguson; Hal Rainsforth, president of Alberta Aviation Council (AAC); Bruce Goodwin, director of AAC and tour chairman; Ken Beleshko, general manager of AAC; Bram Tilroe, commander of CARES; and Ron Brown, Edmonton.

AIRPORT SAFETY SEMINAR CONDUCTED AT CONFERENCE

By: Redge Meierhenry
Aviation Representative

Surely I am not the first to say, but the Montana Aviation Conference was a big hit. Of particular interest to me and, I hope, to all pilots and airport managers in the state of Montana was the Airport Safety Seminar held each of the three days during the Aviation Conference.

Montana Aeronautics sent letters to all Montana airport managers of record, publicizing this seminar and encouraging their attendance and participation. I am happy to report that each session was well attended and received.

Many ideas for the improvement of airport safety grew out of the safety seminar as a result of the exchange of ideas and suggestions between seminar panel members and with Accident Prevention Counselors who attended the Conference.

Although there will be various endeavors initiated by Montana Aeronautics toward improvement of safety at Montana's airports (which I will cover in subsequent newsletter issues), we have all agreed that pilots play a critical role in the safety improvement process. Montana's pilots are out and about seeing the conditions at our airports and are, therefore, in the most opportune position to make suggestions or reports regarding their observations.

We wish, therefore, to announce that Montana Aeronautics Division will be actively soliciting from pilots reports or observations of unsafe conditions at any of the public access airports in Montana. Again, pilots must be our "eyes" and develop an awareness of unsafe conditions. For our part, we will act on behalf of Montana's pilots to recommend correction to the airport owner or manager to eliminate or reduce liability they may have with respect to any unsafe condition so identified by you - the pilot.

This serves two purposes. The first is to make public record of these reports, thus serving as a conduit to our readership so that they may be made aware of various unsafe conditions as reported by other pilots. Secondly, Montana Aeronautics Division wishes to educate airport owners that they have a legal liability and responsibility to maintain their airports without undue hazards for the users. I do need to emphasize here that the most effective place for any kind of airport safety improvement suggestion or report is with

the airport manager and/or airport owner. These are the people that must ultimately know about conditions on their airports and are the only ones to effect remedial action. Your communication with us should not be thought of as a substitute for dialogue with the airport manager/owner.

Each month, or as required, we will publish these reports in the manner and form below. We welcome and encourage your participation for your benefit. Since newsletter space does not allow the printing of an adequate form to be used by you for these reports, please send us your written correspondence to our address on the newsletter.



Members of the Airport Safety Seminar panel on Saturday were (from left): Redge Meierhenry, Aeronautics Division; Denney Bridges, Helena FSDO; Sig Ugrin, Aeronautics Board Chairman; John Seymour, Missoula Airport; and Dave Gabbert, Helena ADO.

FIRC HELD IN HELENA

By: Fred Hasskamp, Chief
Safety and Education Bureau

This year's Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic was held February 16 - 18 in Helena with 66 Certified Flight Instructors completing the 24 hours of classroom instruction required for certificate renewal.

The Clinic was conducted by Cockrell Aviation Training with Dr. Jerald Cockrell and Rod Machado making presentations on many difference subjects of interest to those in attendance.

FAA Accident Prevention Specialist Jim Cooney made a presentation on aircraft accidents in Montana, and Fred Hasskamp of the Aeronautics Division made a presentation on air search and rescue, ELTs, and the SARSAT satellite ELT location.

Jerry and Rod made this one of the most interesting and informative clinics ever - who says education can't be fun? We are grateful that aviation experts of this calibre are willing to come to Montana so that our flight instructors have the distinct advantage of some of the best training available in the country.

Everyone in aviation has ideas and opinions concerning what aviation monies should be spent on, but you can be assured that without good flight instructors from every corner of the state it wouldn't be long before there weren't any pilots left to fly to those abandoned airports.

REPORTED UNSAFE CONDITIONS AT MONTANA AIRPORTS

Montana pilots: You are requested to report to us any unsafe conditions observed at Montana's airports. Do not report operational problems or operation safety hazards. We solicit these comments as a service to all subscribers so that this column can disseminate these observations and improve pilots' awareness of hazards. Montana Aeronautics will not edit or make judgements concerning any reports as to their merit, nor will we institute any reprimand or other actions against the airport owner with regard to these remarks. What we will do is act on behalf of all Montana pilots to recommend correction to the airport owner to eliminate or reduce liability they may have with respect to any unsafe condition so identified. You, as an observer, may remain anonymous, and will always remain so in our correspondence to airport owners.

Forsyth Airport has advised that snow removal will be irregular. The airport manager should be publishing a NOTAM to this effect. Consult manager for current conditions.

ORGANIZATIONS NAME NEW REPS ON AOM BOARD

Terms of office of four of the eight organizations on the Aviation Organizations of Montana Board expired and new members were appointed during the 1990 Conference.

New AOM Board appointees are: John Dove, Missoula, representing Montana Antique Aircraft Association; Tina Pomeroy, Livingston, representing the Montana 99s; and Ralph Klawitter, Missoula, representing the Civil Air Patrol. Reappointed to represent the Montana Aviation Trades Association was Steve Vold, Billings.

The new appointees join the following who still have one more year of

a two-year term to serve: Dave Gates, Great Falls, representing the Montana Pilots Association; Marilyn Lewis, Helena, representing the Montana Flying Farmers; and Monte Eliason, representing the Montana Airport Management Association. The Experimental Aircraft Association is also represented on the AOM Board.

The AOM Board is made up of one representative from each of the active Montana aviation organizations. Representatives are either the presidents of their respective organizations or are appointed by their presidents.

The purpose of AOM is to act as

a steering committee for the annual Aviation Conference as well as to promote aviation in the state.

YOUR SHOULDER HARNESS

IF YOU'VE GOT IT - USE IT!

2000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.37 per copy for a total cost of \$746.60, which includes \$561.60 for printing and \$185 for distribution

MEMBER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

PURPOSE—"To foster aviation, as an industry as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in research, development, and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."



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